

REMARKS

Claims 1-9 are pending in this application; claims 1-3 have been withdrawn from consideration, claims 4-6 have been rejected, claim 7 has been deemed to present allowable subject matter, and claims 8 and 9 are newly-presented. Claim 4 has been revised. Claims 1 and 4 are independent.

The Examiner is thanked for the indication of allowable subject matter in claim 7. Claim 7 has been maintained unchanged because, as explained below, claim 4, from which claim 7 depends, itself is believed to be allowable.

The revision to claim 14 is fully-supported by the original disclosure, for example, in Fig. 9, and in paragraph [0064] of the specification as originally-filed.

Affirmation of Election

As noted in the Office Action, an oral restriction requirement has been raised, requiring an election of either the Group I (claims 1-3) or Group II (claims 4-7) invention.

Applicants telephonically elected the Group II invention (claims 4-7).

Applicants hereby affirm the election of Group II (claims 4-7).

The Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 4-6 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,634,738 to Shinada et al. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection and submit the following arguments in support thereof.

Applicants' invention, as described in claim 4, concerns a liquid cartridge that has a liquid accommodating chamber for containing liquid, a hollow part with a liquid supplying

opening, into which a liquid supplying needle of a liquid ejecting apparatus is inserted, while the liquid supplying opening communicates with the liquid accommodating chamber, a seal member contained in the hollow part, the seal member having an insertion opening being in elastic contact with an external circumference of the liquid supplying needle, while the liquid supplying needle is inserted to the insertion opening, and a supply valve contained in the hollow part, the supply valve being arranged to close or open the insertion opening of the seal member. An urging member urges the supply valve toward the member. The supply valve includes a body part with a circular cross-section, of which a diameter is substantially the same as a diameter of the hollow part of the liquid supplying part, and has a cylindrical shape, of which a height is higher than the diameter of the hollow part of the liquid supplying part, the diameter of which is substantially uniform. A taper part is formed at a first end of the body part, the taper part having an end engaged with the urging member, and a bottom face is formed at a second end of the body part, the bottom face having a flat surface being in contact with the seal member.

Because the supply valve of the present invention has a body part that has a circular cross-section which is of substantially-uniform diameter, the supply valve can be easily inserted from an insertion opening of the seal member when the liquid cartridge is assembled, and positional error of the inserted supply valve will be relatively small.

Applicants respectfully submit that Shinada does not suggest all of these features of the invention. By way of non-limiting example, the supply valve taught by Shinada does not have the benefits of the supply valve of the claimed invention. In particular, the supply valve of this invention has a body part with a substantially uniform circular cross-section, the diameter of which is substantially the same as a diameter of the hollow part of the liquid supply part, and having a height that is higher than the diameter of the hollow part of the liquid supplying part.

As a result, the seal member is stabilized and is not tilted in a hollow part. Shinada's valve structure, as shown in Fig. 5, has a packing member 61 with a diameter that **varies** (in Fig. 5 it is wider at the bottom than at the top, and also has a rib-shaped projecting region near the bottom). Accordingly, Shinada does not even suggest at least the aspects of the present invention involving the constant-diameter cylindrical body part.

Applicants therefore respectfully submit that one skilled in the art would not be led by Shinada to at least these aspects of the present invention.

The remaining rejected claims all ultimately depend from and so incorporate by reference all the features of independent claim 4, which features have been shown to patentably distinguish over the cited art. These dependent claims therefore are patentable over the cited art at least for the same reasons as claim 4.

For all the foregoing reasons, favorable reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

Newly-presented claims 8 and 9 both depend from claim 4, which has been shown to avoid the cited art. Accordingly, new claims 8 and 9 are likewise allowable.

CONCLUSION

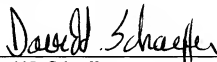
Applicants respectfully submit that all outstanding rejections have been addressed and are now overcome. Applicants further submit that all claims pending in this application are patentable over the prior art. Favorable reconsideration and withdrawal of those rejections and objections is respectfully requested.

Other than the extension fee authorized in the accompanying Petition for Extension of Time, no fees are believed to be due. The Commissioner is nevertheless authorized

to charge any fees deemed to be now or hereafter due in this application to Deposit Account No. 19-4709.

In the event that there are any questions, or should additional information be required, please contact Applicants' attorney at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "David L. Schaeffer", is written over a horizontal line.

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